

01 United States Department of Commerce  
02 Patent and Trademark Office  
03 Assistant Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks  
04 Washington, D.C. 20231  
05 July 8, 2003  
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07  
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09

10 Michael J. Malone  
11 1907 Juniper Lane  
12 Bensalem, PA. 19020  
13 215 639 2175  
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16 Sir:

17 **A Petition To Make Special**  
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19 A Petition to make special is made for the utility patent application entitled  
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21 **Serial Hard Disk Drive Selector**  
22

23 The application being filed July 8, 2003. Petition accompanies the utility patent  
24 application named. Petition is made as allowed by 37 CFR 1.102, Advancement of  
25 Examination, and as required in MPEP 708.2 part VIII in compliance with items A  
26 ,B, C, D, & E of part VIII.  
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31  
32 Item A) per 37CFR 1.17(h) a fee to make special is included and is listed on the Fee  
33 Transmittal Form SB/17 accompanying this petition and its related utility patent  
34 application.  
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38 Item B) This petition is made for the utility patent application entitled Serial Hard  
39 Disk Drive Selector. There is one claim in this utility patent and that one claim is  
40 aimed at a single invention. With this petition, election without traverse is made.  
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01 Item C) A thorough pre-examination search was made. The fields of search were:  
02  
03 U.S. Patent Classes 360/61, 63, 64, 69, 137 and 711/112; International Patent  
04  
05 Classes G 06 F 13/00 and G 11 B 05/02.  
06

07 Further references included: 1) Upgrading and Repairing PC's  
08 Scott Mueller  
09 Academic Edition, 14<sup>th</sup> edition  
10 ISBN 078972927X  
11

12 2) The W. L. Rosch Hardware Bible  
13 Winn L. Rosch  
14 6<sup>th</sup> Edition, Feb. 2003  
15 ISBN 0789728591  
16

17 Item D) Only one reference is deemed closely related to this utility patent  
18  
19 application and petition to make special. It is U.S. Patent No.6,480,350 B1, issued  
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21 to Malone, Nov, 12, 2002.  
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23 Item E) In U.S. No. 6,480,350 B1, Malone discloses a hard disk drive selector.  
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25 Malone's invention is a three component, multi-pole, multi-throw, switching  
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27 device that resides permanently within a personal computer system. The hard  
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29 disk drive selector permits the rapid and easy replacement of one permanently  
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31 mounted physical parallel hard disk drive occupying a single logical position  
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33 within a computer system with another permanently mounted parallel hard disk  
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35 drive within the same computer system. Malone's Hard Disk Drive Selector is  
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37 configurable and can be used to choose any one parallel hard disk drive for use  
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39 from a plurality of available parallel hard disk drives permanently mounted within  
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41 the computer system.  
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43 When Malone's invention is used, a particular setting is chosen while the  
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01 computer system is off. When the computer system is turned on, booted, the  
02  
03 selected parallel hard disk drive is used for that entire computer use session. If  
04  
05 another parallel hard disk is to be used, the computer system is turned off. When the  
06  
07 computer system is turned off, the other parallel hard disk drive is selected utilizing  
08  
09 Malone's Hard Disk Drive Selector and the computer is booted with the newly  
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11 selected parallel hard disk drive in use for this new computer use session.  
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13 Malone's invention, the Hard Disk Drive Selector resides between the  
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15 parallel hard disk drive host adapter and its parallel hard disk drive and within the  
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17 hard disk drive's peripheral bus system. The Hard Disk Drive Selector also resides  
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19 between the system's power supply and parallel hard disk drive.  
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21 Malone's invention specifically aims at controlling the bus of a peripheral  
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23 hard disk drive that has four distinct segments. The four segments are the power  
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25 delivery bus components, the command delivery bus components, the address  
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27 delivery bus components, and the data delivery bus components. When operated,  
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29 Malone's invention opens the power, command, and address delivery components to  
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31 any and all not-selected hard disk drives controlled by the invention and closes the  
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33 power, command, and address components to the selected hard disk drive controlled  
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35 by the invention. With this invention, the data delivery components of the peripheral  
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37 hard disk drive bus are left closed to all hard disk drives controlled by the invention  
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39 at all times; to both selected and not-selected hard disk drives controlled by the  
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41 invention.  
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43 Malone's invention is specific to the control of and selection and not-  
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01 selection of parallel type hard disk drives.

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03 Malone's invention, The Hard Disk Drive Selector, offers unprecedented  
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05 versatility and protection in the use and storage of parallel hard disk drives and in the  
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07 protection of software and data stored on the drives, but it fails to work with serial  
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09 hard disk drives and to extend this protection to serial hard disk drives.  
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11 The Utility Patent Application that this petition seeks to make special is  
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13 specifically for Serial Hard Disk Drive Selector. That this is a novel method and  
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15 technique is shown by the fact that serial hard disk drives communicate command,  
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17 address, and data over the same conductors of the computer bus, unlike the parallel  
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19 bus. In the serial communication scheme, leaving data traces closed at all times  
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21 means leaving all traces closed at all times. A different method than described in  
22  
23 U.S. Patent No. 6,480,350 B1 is needed.  
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25  
26 Thank you very much.  
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28  
29 Sincerely yours,

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32 Michael J. Malone  
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